

PATRIOT Act and other laws respect privacy and civil liberties, and I'll soon name five talented Americans to serve on that board. Attorney General Gonzales delivers regular reports on the PATRIOT Act to the House and the Senate. And the Department of Justice has answered hundreds of questions from Members of Congress. One Senator, Dianne Feinstein of California, has worked with civil rights groups to monitor my administration's use of the PATRIOT Act. Here's what she said, "We've scrubbed the area, and I have no reported abuses." Remember that the next time you hear someone make an unfair criticism of this important, good law. The PATRIOT Act has not diminished American liberties; the PATRIOT Act has helped to defend American liberties.

Every day the men and women of law enforcement use the PATRIOT Act to keep America safe. It's the nature of your job that many of your most important achievements must remain secret. Americans will always be grateful for the risks you take and for the determination you bring to this high calling—you have done your job. Now those of us in Washington have to do our job. The House and Senate are moving forward with the process to renew the PATRIOT Act. My message to Congress is clear: The terrorist threats against us will not expire at the end of the year, and neither should the protections of the PATRIOT Act.

I want to thank you for letting me come and talk about this important piece of legislation. I want to thank you for being on the frontlines of securing this country. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our Nation. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Kenneth L. Morckel, director, Ohio Department of Public Safety; Col. Paul D. McClellan, superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Judges for the United States Court of Appeals

June 9, 2005

I am pleased that the Senate voted today to confirm three distinguished and highly qualified judges to the United States Court of Appeals: Judge Bill Pryor, Judge Richard Griffin, and Judge David McKeague.

More than a year ago, I recess appointed Judge Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to fill a vacancy that had been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Pryor's recent service on the Eleventh Circuit has built on an impressive career of public service in which he has applied the law fairly and impartially to all people. I commend the Senate for fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to vote on Judge Pryor and for confirming him so that he will continue his service on this court.

Both Judge Griffin and Judge McKeague have served on the Michigan courts for more than a decade, during which time each has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law. Both are well qualified to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and will fill vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

These three nominees have waited a combined total of over 8 years for their votes. I applaud the Senate for today giving these fine nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Africa

June 8, 2005

For the past several years, the United States has worked with African leaders on bold initiatives to encourage reform within the continent. Our goal is to improve the lives of the African people, and our partnership is yielding results. The economies of